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Report of the Technical Committee on the extraction of coal from Neyveli area.

* 308 Q.—SRI N. MAHALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to place on the table of the House—

(a) the report of the Technical Committee on the extraction of coal from Neyveli area in South Arcot district; and

(b) state whether the Government are considering the utilisation of the iron ore in Salem district?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"(a) The report[a] of the Committee of Experts and that of the High Power Committee regarding the extraction of lignite are placed on the table of the House.

"(b) The Government are considering the utilization of iron ore in the Salem district."

Construction of Tamidapadu tank in Udayagiri taluk.

* 309 Q.—SRI K. RAMAIAH CHOWDARY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the reasons for stopping the construction of Tamidapadu and Nakkalagandi tanks in Udayagiri taluk, Nellore district?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"The question of stopping the schemes does not arise as the schemes have not yet been sanctioned. Plans and estimates in respect of both the schemes are awaited from the local officers."

Number of boring pumpsets in Udayarpalayam taluk.

* 310 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many boring pumpsets were erected in 1937 in Udayarpalayam taluk in Tiruchirappalli district for providing drinking water facilities;

(b) how many of these are in working condition;

(c) what arrangements have the Government made to maintain these sets in good condition and to repair those which have gone out of repair;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in certain villages in that taluk these pumpsets are abandoned;

(e) what special steps were taken to prevent such abandonment and the resultant waste of money invested in the erection of these pumpsets;

(f) whether there is any scheme of extending the provision of pumpsets this year to some more villages affected by drought and scarcity of drinking water; and

(g) if not, what are the steps taken by the Government to overcome the water scarcity in such villages?

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 856–859 infra.

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Twenty-one pumpsets were installed in 1937 in Udayarpalayam taluk.

" (b) Only two pumpsets are in working condition in that taluk.

" (c) The pumpsets were maintained by the Revenue Department till 1947 and since then, in the interest of better maintenance, this work has been entrusted to the Industries Department. The cost of repair is met by the local bodies concerned.

" (d) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (e) Instructions have been issued to the Director of Industries and Commerce to pay special attention to the repair and the maintenance of bore wells and to see that the efficiency of maintenance is improved.

" (f) The answer is in the negative.

" (g) Wells in these areas affected by adverse seasonal conditions are deepened under the Rural Water Supply Scheme to tide over the drinking water scarcity."

Representations re the supersession of the Panchayat Board, Udangudi.

* 311 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation within the last three years from the public of Udangudi for the supersession of the panchayat board there;

(b) whether the District Panchayat Officer, Tirunelveli, has recommended the supersession; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) In 1950, the District Panchayat Officer suggested that the panchayat might be superseded. There were no sufficient grounds for taking such action against the panchayat and the Inspector directed the District Panchayat Officer to watch the administration of the panchayat. As the administration of the panchayat had improved, no further action was taken by the Inspector. In April 1952, a petition was received from certain residents of Udangudi making allegations against the panchayat. On enquiry the allegations were found to be untrue. There is no proposal to supersede the panchayat."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister has received several representations from the local